

TOWN OF HERNDON

Michael L. O'Reilly, Mayor
Darryl C. Smith, Vice Mayor
Carol A. Bruce
Dennis D. Husch
Steven D. Mitchell
Ann V. Null
Harlon Reece

P.O. Box 427
HERNDON, VIRGINIA 20172-0427



Michael L. O'Reilly
Mayor

AT HOME IN HERNDON

A summary of Town policies and activities.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we begin the year 2006, we have a number of important projects that are taking shape. The goal of each of these projects is to improve the quality of life for our citizens. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with some of the exciting things we have to look forward to in 2006. You can contact me and members of Town Council by calling the Town Clerk's office at 703-435-6804 or by visiting the Town's website at <http://herndon-va.gov> and clicking on "Town Council."

Michael L. O'Reilly
Mayor

Herndon Community Center Expansion

Phase IV is underway! The Herndon Community Center began a substantial renovation and addition in September which is expected to be completed by late summer of 2006. The four million dollar, eighteen-thousand-square-foot project will provide a significant enhancement for the community and will include a new fitness area, preschool and childcare services, expanded space for fine arts and crafts programs, game room, dance room and a large multipurpose activity area. Over the winter visitors to the Center will see improvements to parking, storm drainage, and the building taking shape with the erection of steel, roof structures, and building walls rising. Information on the services at the Community Center may be obtained by calling 703-787-7300.

Nature Center

Runnymede Park, located off the Herndon Parkway, is our 58-acre, natural park. Staff from the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Community Development, along with citizen advisory members from the Friends of Runnymede are working with the architectural firm of "Gauthier, Alvarado & Associates," in the design process for a 4000-square-foot Nature Center. The center will include an exhibit room, multipurpose space, resource library, and children's area. In addition to the Nature Center, plans include picnic shelters, ADA-accessible trails, parking, and other improvements to be developed in a later phase. The Town expects construction of the park improvements and Nature Center to begin in mid-2006. When completed, the Nature Center will provide a broad program of environmental education activities for the community. For further information on the Nature Center or nature programs, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 703-787-7300.

Sugarland Run Trail

A new hike and bike trail has been opened for public use on the Sugarland Run Stream in the Town of Herndon, connecting the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority W&OD Bike Trail to the Fairfax County Sugarland Run Trail. The Town's section is approximately one-and-a-quarter miles in length and features a ten-foot-wide, paved path; bridges for stream crossings; and a board walk.

— OVER —

The trail runs through heavily-wooded areas where trail users can enjoy a variety of wildlife, birds and diverse plant life throughout the trail. The trail connecting into the Fairfax County trail system allows users to continue through the stream valley to Route 7 or to connect to the Folly Lick Trail, which runs through Kingstream and Hiddenbrook Subdivisions in Fairfax County. The 1.45-million-dollar trail was funded by the Town of Herndon with grant support from the Virginia Department of Transportation CMAQ Program and Urban Transportation Allocation, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Recreational Trails Grants Program. Baker Engineering of Alexandria designed the trail and Avon Corporation completed construction of the trail. For more information, you call the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8726 or call the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department at 703-787-7300.

Downtown Development

The Town Council is now considering two proposals for an area of the downtown that has been planned for redevelopment for many years. Both proposals would build structured parking, an arts center, and various public streetscapes and open space facilities. The proposal submitted by Clark Ventures includes retail and residential condominium land use, while a competing proposal submitted by Herndon Station, LLC includes hotel, retail, office and residential-condominium land use.

This potential redevelopment is being considered under the authority contained in Virginia's Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (referred to as "PPEA" or "the Act"). The Act was patterned on the Public-Private Transportation Act. It provides for a three-stage process allowing unsolicited or solicited conceptual phase proposals, detailed phase review with specific deliverables as requested by the jurisdiction, and the negotiation of a comprehensive agreement as the third and final stage. This agreement would set forth full and detailed commitments for construction and final ownership. The Town Council looks forward to working on downtown development in 2006. Information on the downtown development proposals can be obtained by contacting Senior Planner, Dana Heiberg at the Community Development Department, 703-787-7380 or email to dana.heiberg@herndon-va.gov.

Re-Write of Zoning Ordinance

The 2000-2002 Town Council requested the staff, the Planning Commission, and consultants to completely re-write the zoning ordinance. The project is now back on track. Since last fall, the Planning Commission has been engaged in its review of the draft text for the rewritten zoning ordinance. Among other things, the Planning Commission has reviewed proposed regulations for the zoning districts and proposed standards for all uses within the Town. Community meetings and numerous public hearings have been held to provide information to interested participants about the re-write of the zoning ordinance and to encourage participants to share their views about the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance.

As the Town's staff, Planning Commission and Town Council review the zoning ordinance, they welcome your comments and opinions. You may express your views in public meetings; by submitting written comments to the Herndon Department of Community Development, P.O. Box 427, Herndon, Virginia, 20172-0427; or by calling the Herndon Department of Community Development at 703-787-7380.